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II. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Edward Floyd, Cim. Ashm. Oxon. To Dr. M. Lister, giving an Account of Locusts lately observed in Wales.*

S I R,

YOU have probably been already informed from some other Parts of the Kingdom, of swarms of *Locusts* that have lately appeared on our *British* Coasts. However because I am not certain that they have been observed elsewhere, I shall take this Occasion of giving you what Account I can at present, of some that have been seen in *Wales*. As far as I have been yet informed, they were first seen on the 20th. of *October*, scattered about the Fields in *Marthery* Parish, *Pembroke-shire*, where they were generally taken notice of, at first, because of the unseasonableness of the time for Grasshoppers; but afterwards, for that upon further Examination, they found them distinct from our *English* Grasshoppers, in bigness, colour, &c. I could not learn that any of them have been seen flying in that Country; but from *North Wales* I am informed that two vast swarms of them had been seen in the Air not far from *Dôl-gelheu*, a Market-Town of *Merioneth-shire*. I cannot assure you of the time when these flying *Locusts* were observed, but by the date of my Friend's Letter, &c. I guess that it was near the same time that those others of *Pembroke-shire* had been taken notice of in the Fields. What part of the World these Creatures should come from, I must leave to your Conjecture; in the mean time I can assure you that they are of the very same *Species* with some *African Locusts* in my Custody in the *Museum*; for which (and many other valuable Curio-

ties) we are obliged to that very Inquisitive and Ingenious Gentleman, Mr. J. Aubrey, S. R. S. who received them some Years since from *Tangier*. As yet I have but one sent me out of *Wales*, which you may Command if you please, for I expect shortly more of them.

This Pilgrim-Locust I call, *Locusta erratica*, *alis ichthyocollæ adinstar pellucidis, reticulatis maculis conspersis*. It is in length (from the Head to the tips of the Wings) three Inches and $\frac{1}{2}$, of a reddish colour all over, except the Wings. As to the Head and *Caputium*, it resembles the Fourth Figure of *Moufetus*. The Eyes are prominent and very large, somewhat of the form and bigness of Gromwel-seeds, of a reddish colour, elegantly streaked. The *Antennæ* are broken so that I can say nothing of the length of them: They are about the bigness of a Hog's bristle, and curiously *geniculated*. As to the Legs, the first pair are not quite an Inch long; the second, somewhat above that length; but the third two Inches and $\frac{1}{2}$. These hind-legs are very beautiful; for the Thighs are hexangular, and elegantly scaled on the outside, with a black List extended lengthways through the midst of them. The shanks are of a lively red colour, adorned on the hind-part with two orders of small sharp prickles, placed not opposite to each others, but alternately. The Wings are about three Inches long, resembling very much those of the larger *Libellæ*, or Dragon-flies, but all over garnished (the outer Wings at least) with reticulated black spots.

I see not much reason to doubt but that these are the very same Species of Locusts, so Famous in History for their wandring over, and depopulating whole Regions.

In *Pliny, Lib. xi. c. xxix.* we find these words, ---*Solémque obumbrant sollicitè spectantibus populis ne suas operiant terras. Sufficiunt quippe vires; Et tanquam parum sit maria transisse, immensos tractus permeant, diraque messibus contegunt nube, multa contactu adurentes; Omnia*

vero

vero morfu erodentes, & fores quoque tectorum. Italiam ex Africa maximè coortæ, infestunt, sæpe populo ad Sibyllina coacto remedia confugere, inopiæ metu. Now whether this *multa contactu adurentes* makes any thing for the firing or the Hay-ricks I question. For I sh^d be apt to understand those words, as if they meant only *Exarefaction*, and perhaps Poysoning, not down right *Firing or Combustion*. See the following Letter, Numb. 4.

Julius Obsequens in libro prodigiorum, p. 69. Edit. Bas. 1599. Locustarum ingentia agmina in Africa, quæ à vento in mari dejectæ, fluctibusque ejectæ, odore intolerabili Cyrenis mortifero vapore gravem pestilentiam fecerunt pecori, hominûmque DCCC millia consumpta tæbe, proditum est.

I was suspicious of this at the very first reading of Mr. Jones his Letter, and therefore writ to him the very same day I writ to you and Mr. Ray, to examine the Sea *Algæ* and *Fuci* for dead *Locusts*.

The like Account also *Mouf.* cites out of *Otho Frisingensis*. — *Tandem verò in Mare Britannicum sublata ventorum vi, fluctibus obruebantur. Sed æstu Oceani in litus rejectæ aërem infecerunt, pestémque anteaestâ fame non minùs sævam intulerunt.* And which comes nearer to our purpose, in *Mouf.* p. 123. *Postea per Germaniam errantes ad Mediolanensem usque agrum iter ceperunt, eoque depasto in Poloniam & Sileham revertebantur. Tandem Mense Novemori (tam diu enim vixerant) et frigoris vitabactæ maximum fætorem excitarunt, & nisi suis apriisque Sylvestribus pabulo fuissent, non minus peste gravissimâ quàm fame tam Germanos quam Itatos affecisset.* But in *Wales* there are no Creatures to devour them, unless the Badgers and Crows may take off some.